

# Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Permit Update



**Susanna L. Pearlstein, Ph.D.**

*Agriculture & Water Quality Advisory Committee  
October 3, 2018*



# Thank You!

- **CAFO Permittee's**
- **Maia Bellon**, ECY
- **Jon Jennings**, ECY
- **Bill Moore**, *ECY retired*
- **Chery Sullivan**, WSDA
- **Heather Bartlett**, ECY
- **Vince McGowan**, ECY
  
- **Wym Matthews**, ODA
- **Nick Peak**, EPA Region 10
- N3
- Whatcom Conservation District
- NRCS



- WA Department of Agriculture
- Agriculture & Water Quality Advisory Committee
- WA Farm Bureau
- WA State Dairy Federation
- Cattle Producers of WA
- Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
- WA Association of Conservation Districts
- WA State Water Resources & Cattle Feeders Association
- Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association
- WA State Potato Commission
- WA Environmental Law Center
- WA State Hay Growers Association
- WA Association of Wine Grape Growers
- WA Association of Wheat Growers
- Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association

# Who is this lady?



Perennial grass seed  
Beet seed  
Hazelnut  
Row crops



Sweet corn  
Peppermint  
Blueberries  
Specialty crops



# Today's Goals

- CAFO General Permit overview
- Current program coverage
- Future steps



# Program Building - Example

## *Whatcom County Outreach*

- Frequent, invited visits
- Face to face time with permittees
- Technical assistance



# Program Building

- WSDA's Dairy Nutrient Advisory Committee
- WSDA bi-weekly staff meetings
- Expand across the state
  - Permit Implementation Team
  - Utilize Extension offices for remote meetings

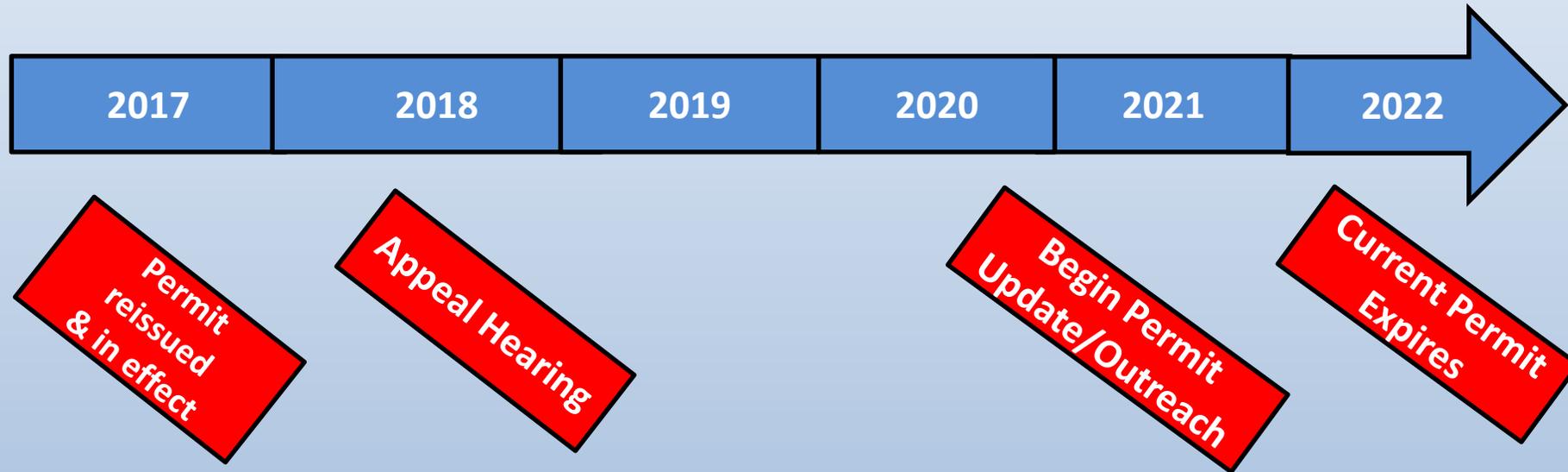


# Today's CAFO Program

- Memorandum of Understanding (WSDA – ECY)
- WSDA = face of the permit
- Ecology = NPDES authority, issues CAFO permits



# Current CAFO Permit Timeline



*Working with the permit as currently written*



# One Permit, Two Options

**Combined permit:**  
surface and  
groundwater  
discharges

Issuance Date: January 18, 2017  
Effective Date: March 3, 2017  
Expiration Date: March 2, 2022

**CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION**

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and State Waste Discharge General Permit

State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
Olympia, WA

In compliance with the provisions of  
The State of Washington Water Pollution Control Act  
Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington  
and  
The Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
(The Clean Water Act)  
Title 33 United States Code, Section 1251 et seq.

Until this permit expires, is modified, or revoked, Permittees that have properly obtained coverage under this general permit are conditionally authorized to discharge in accordance with the special and general conditions that follow.

The Permittee must reapply for permit coverage on or before **September 4, 2021**, 180 days before the expiration of this permit, if the Permittee intends to continue operations and discharges beyond the term of this permit.

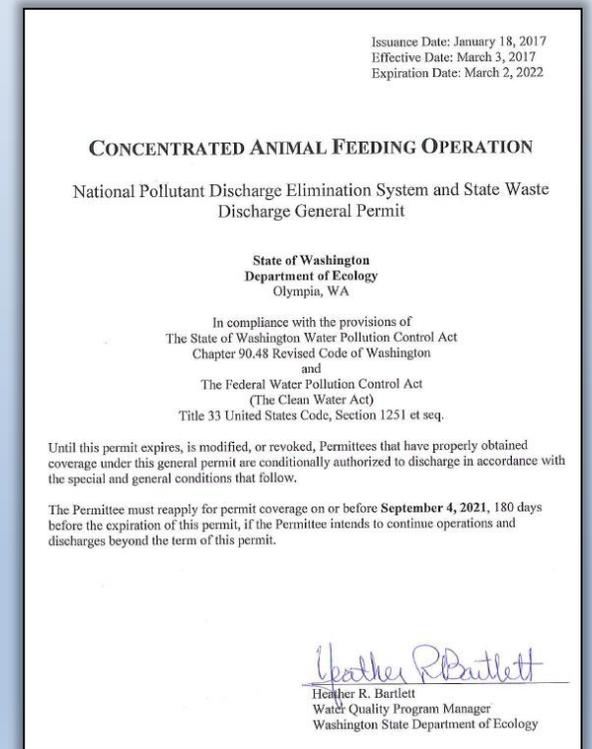
  
Heather R. Bartlett  
Waste Quality Program Manager  
Washington State Department of Ecology

**State permit:**  
groundwater  
discharges only



# Challenge of Implementation

- CAFO General Permit = statewide standards of protection
- End goals is the same for everyone
- How we get there is unique



# Benefits of Permit Coverage

- Documentation
- Protection from third party lawsuits

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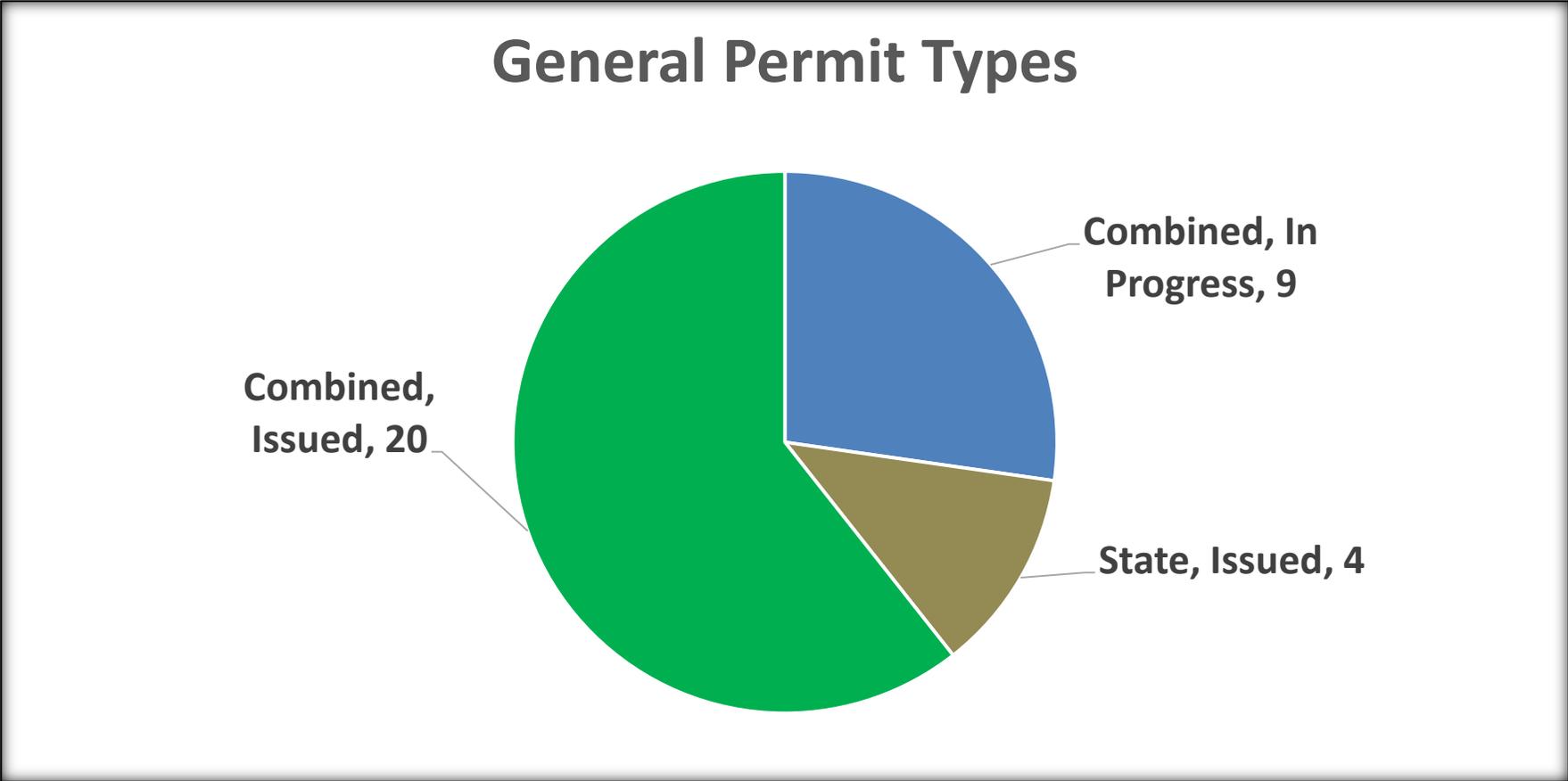
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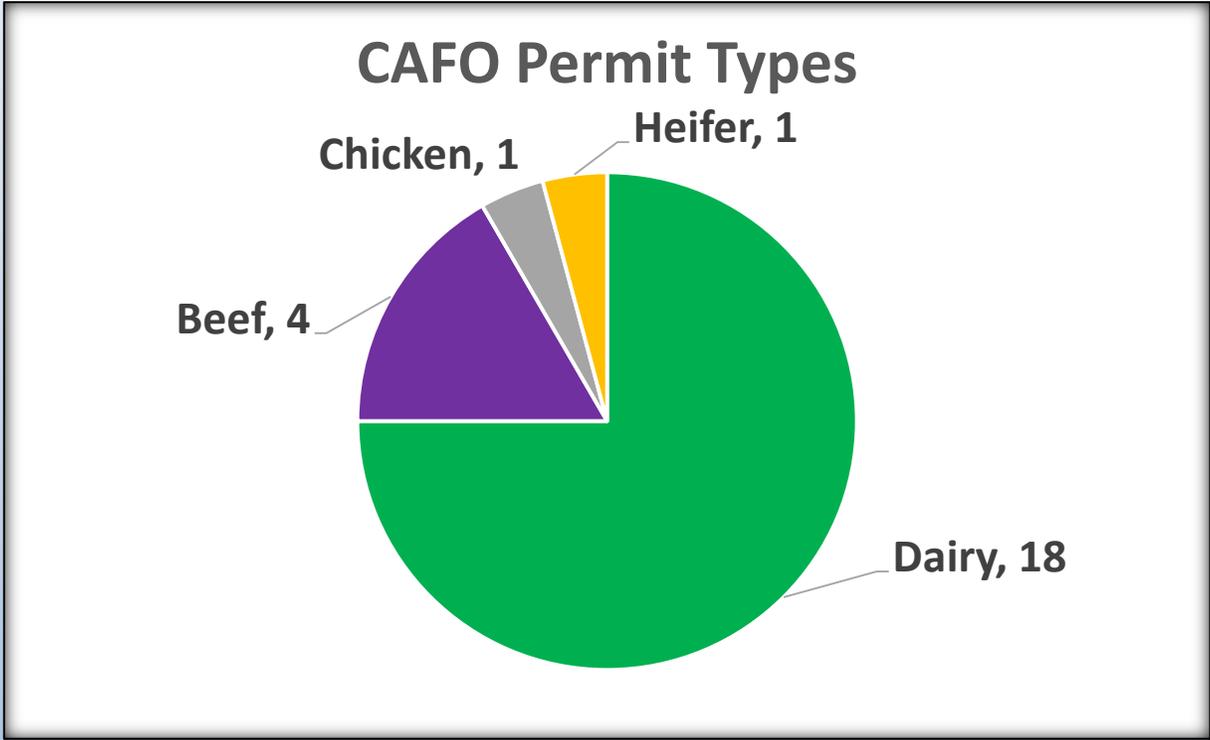
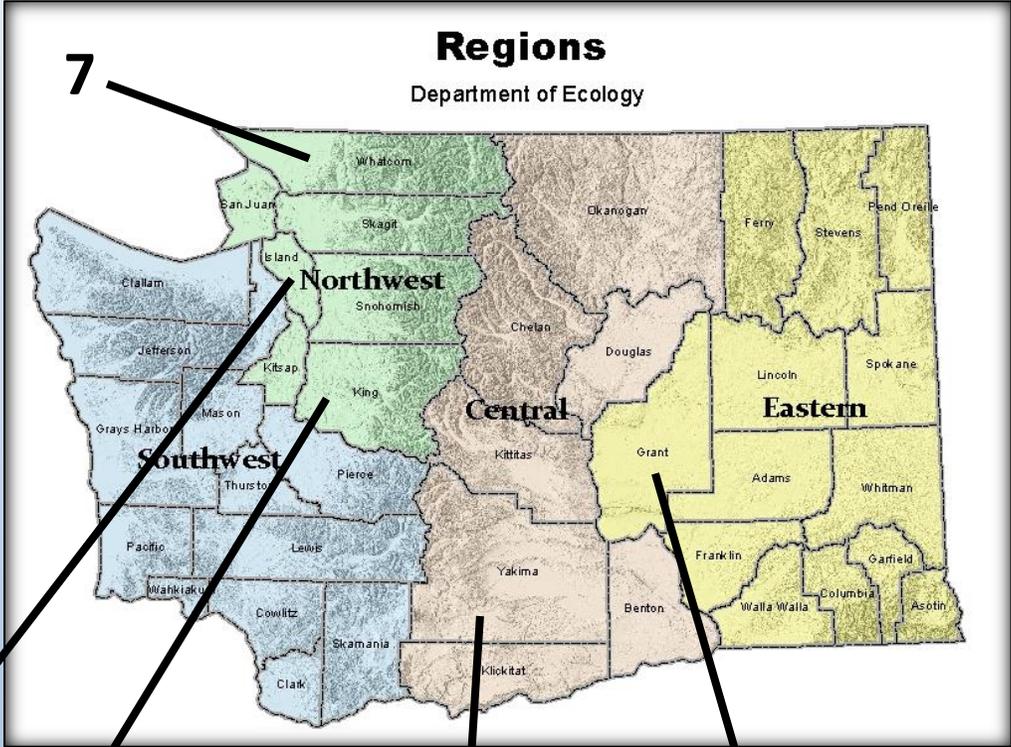
  
Heather R. Bartlett  
Water Quality Program Manager  
Washington State Department of Ecology



# Current Permit Coverage



# Current Permit Coverage



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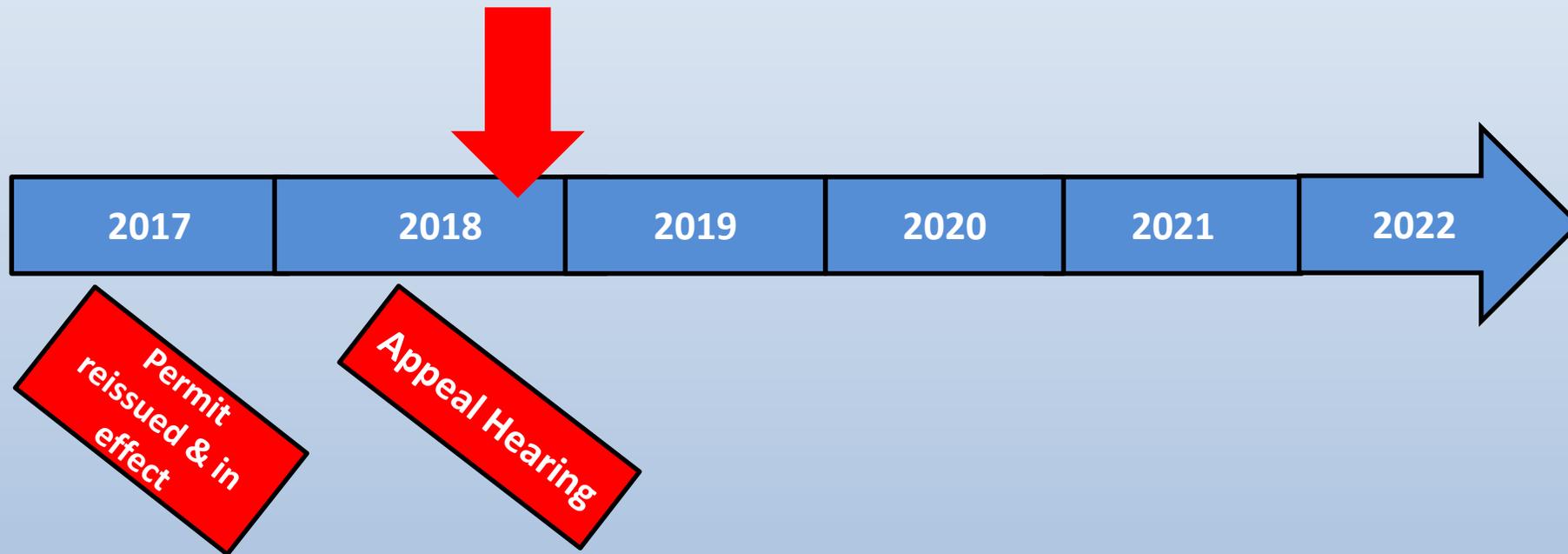
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# Permit Appeal Update

- Washington Dairy Federation
- Washington Farm Bureau

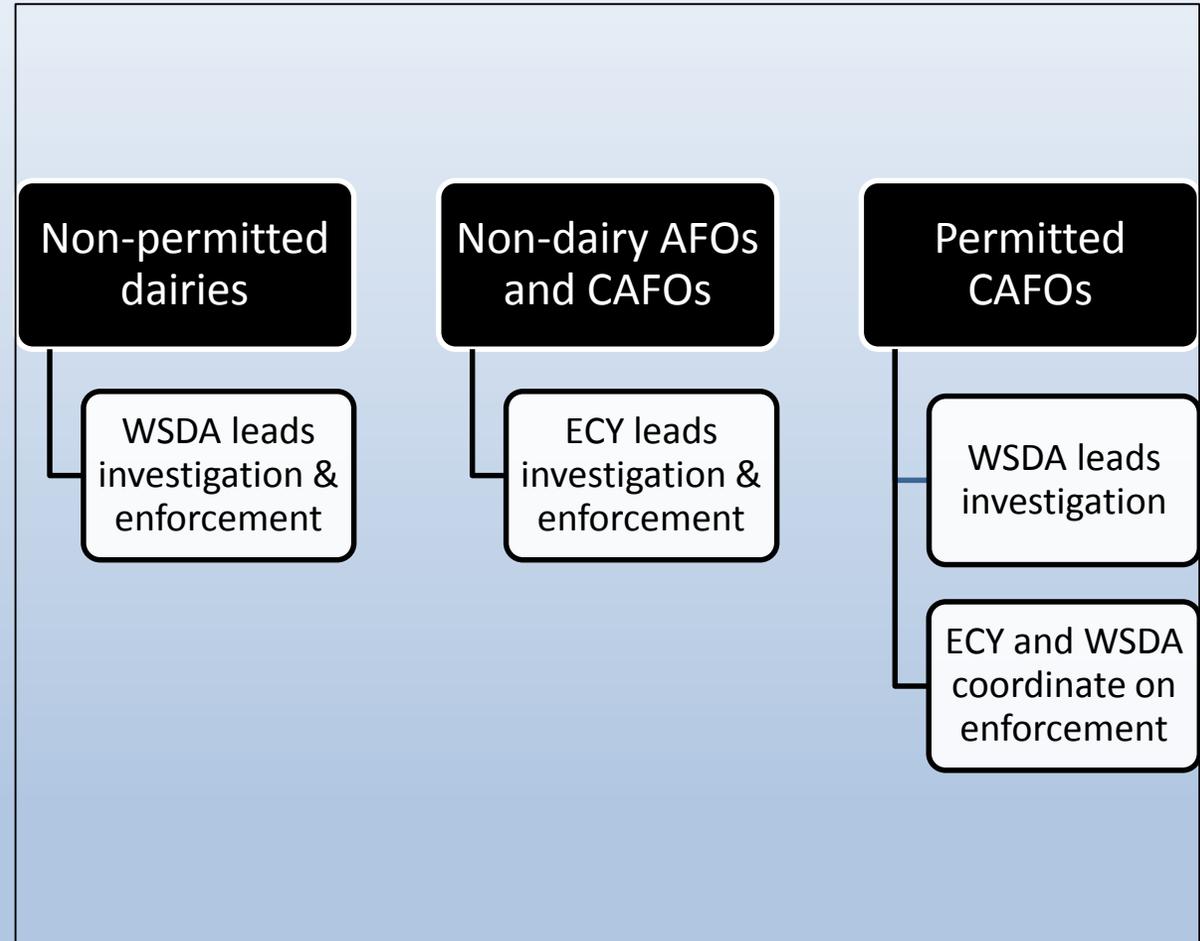


- Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
- CARE
- Friends of Toppenish Creek
- Sierra Club
- Waterkeeper Alliance
- Center for Food Safety



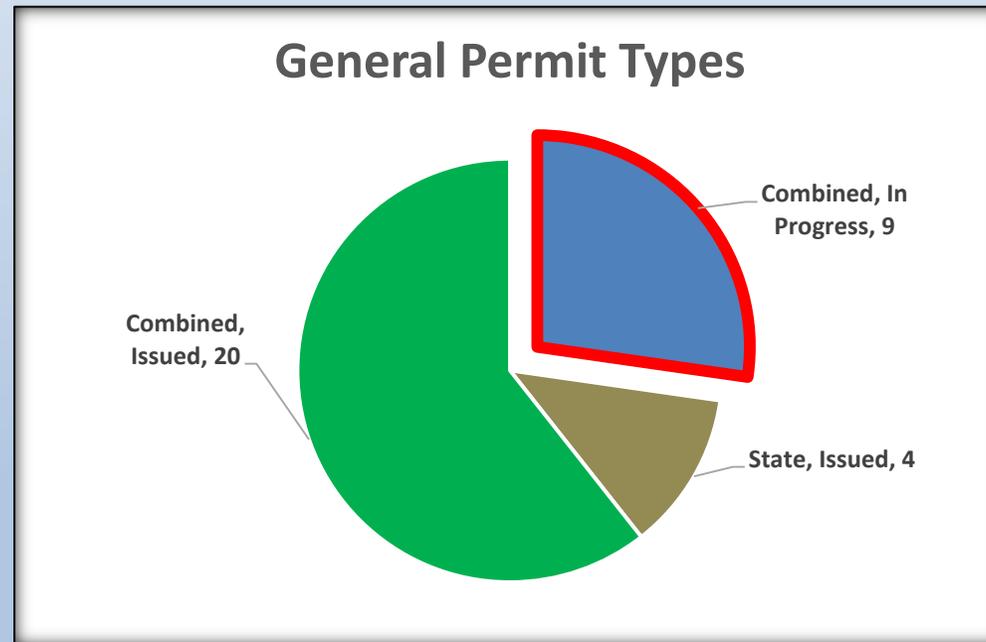
# Permitting Priorities

- Operations with permit applications
- Operations that have surface water discharges
- Complaint response
- Groundwater discharges



# Moving Forward

What about the “*In Progress*” facilities?



# Moving Forward

- Met with Dairy Federation after PCHB Hearings
- Start with 3 facilities (out of 9)

Facility 1	Multiple Discharges (4)
Facility 2	Applied for incorrect permit in 2017
Facility 3	Applied for incorrect permit in 2017



# CAFO Program Goals

- Protect water quality
- Increase education
- Build permittee assistance
- Increase communication
- Work in progress



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- WA Association of Wheat Growers
- Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association
  
- Many others!

# Looking forward to working with you!

Susanna Pearlstein

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